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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,205	11/18/2003	Mitchell Chapin Green	10587.0176-00000	2248
22852	7590	02/03/2011		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413				
EXAMINER				
SALOMON, PHENUELL S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2179				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/03/2011		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,205

Applicant(s)

GREEN ET AL.

Examiner

PHENUEL S. SALOMON

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 38, 41-43, 55-57, 60, 61, 63-67, 70-76 and 82-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 38, 41-43, 55-57, 60, 61, 63-67, 70-76 and 82-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/2010
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the rce filed on 10/21/2010. Claims 1, 14, 67, 72, 76, 83, 89 and 91 are amended; claims 2-6, 9-13, 15, 17-19, 22-37, 39-40, 44-54, 58-59, 62, 68-69, and 77-81 have been canceled; and claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 38, 41-43, 55-57, 60, 61, 63-67, 70-76 and 82-93 are pending and have been considered below.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/21/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim

that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1, 14, 16, 20, 41, 55-57, 60-61, 63-64, 72-73 and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 6,791,583 B2) in view of Yach et al. (US 7,295,836) in view of Imamura et al. (US 2002/0091774 A1).

Claims 1 and 14: Tang discloses a computer- readable storage medium and a method having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

display, to a user of an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4a).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users;

determine, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user);

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent by

the first co-user to the user and remain unread by the user, wherein the first graphical element is automatically displayed in response to the notification and independent of a selection of the identifier by the user;

However Yach discloses

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users (col. 26, lines 61-65);

determine, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 26, lines 14-20, lines 61-67);

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, display, in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first co-user to the user and remain unread by the user, wherein the first graphical element is automatically displayed in response to the notification and independent of a selection of the identifier by the user (col. 26, lines 61-67, lines 14-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include message notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Tang and Yach do not explicitly disclose within the window that includes the contacts list.

However Imamura discloses the numbers of unread e-mail messages for each particular user are displayed within the contacts list window (para. [0053], fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

enable the user to select the first graphical element;

receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user; and
in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Yach discloses

enable the user to select the first graphical element (col. 26, lines 19-26);
receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user (col. 26, lines 19-21) [italic type indicates events have been attended by a user implies that there was a selection]; and
in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Imamura discloses

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each name and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053] and [0057]), as status information can include additional information and upon user input of a password then the messages status are updated (See Para 56 bottom, login causes update)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Tang further discloses

display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Claim 16: Tang, Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 14 above, Tang further discloses receiving a selection of the first graphical element comprises receiving an indication that the user has moved a graphical pointer further over the graphical element corresponding to the first co-user in the contacts list (fig. 5a).

Claim 20: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 14 above, Tang further discloses comprising displaying the one or more unread email (col. 11, lines 17-31) and Imamura discloses in response to a second selection of the first graphical element by the user (para. [0053] and [0057]) [a second selection will cause the same effect as the first one]. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Claim 41: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 14 above Tang further discloses:

determining that a second one of the co-users has sent a number of e-mail message to the user remain unread by the user (fig. 5a) [the same process can be applied to any co-users]; and

Yach further discloses

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the second co-user to the user being greater than zero, displaying, in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second graphical element configured to inform the user that the second co-user has sent one or more e-mail messages to the user (col. 26, lines 61-67, 14-20). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24);

Imamura further discloses within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053], fig. 6).

One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Claim 55: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 1 above, Yach further discloses the first graphical element comprises an icon (fig. 15 a,b).

Claim 56: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 1 above, wherein the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

Tang further discloses determine a number of unread e-mail messages sent by a second one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 4, lines 18-24 and fig. 5a) [the same process is also valid for a second co-user];

Yach further discloses
conditioned on the determined number of unread e-mail messages sent by the second co-user to the user being greater than zero, display, in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 26, lines 61-67, 14-20). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24);

Imamura further discloses within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053], fig. 6). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Claim 57: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 56 above, Yach further discloses the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

enable the user to select the second graphical element (col. 26, lines 19-26);
receive a selection of the second graphical element by the user (col. 26, lines 19-21) [italic type indicates events have been attended by a user implies that there was a selection]; and

Imamura further discloses

in response to the selection of the second graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Tang further discloses

display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Claim 60: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, Tang further discloses the instructions for causing a computer to display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first co-user to the user include instructions for causing the computer to display the number in a pop-up window or a dialog box that appears, the pop-up window or the dialog box displaying the number without displaying a list of e-mails received by the user (fig. 5a),

Imamura further discloses

in response to the selection of the second graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Claim 61: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 55, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 63: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 57, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 64: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 60, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 72: Tang discloses a computer- readable storage medium having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

display, to a user of an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4a).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users

determine, based on the notification, whether unread e-mail messages sent by the user to a first co-user or received by the user from the first co-user are available for access;

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first co-user to the user and remain unread by the user, wherein the first graphical element is automatically displayed in response to the notification and independent of a selection of the identifier by the user.

However Yach discloses

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users (col. 26, lines 61-65);

determine, based on the notification, whether unread e-mail messages sent by the user to a first co-user or received by the user from the first co-user are available for access (col. 26, lines 14-20, lines 61-67);

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, display, in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first co-user to the user and remain unread by the user, wherein the first graphical element is automatically displayed in response to the notification and independent of a selection of the identifier by the user (col. 26, lines 61-67, lines 14-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include message notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Tang does not explicitly disclose within the window that includes the contacts list

However Imamura discloses the numbers of unread e-mail messages for each particular user are displayed within the contacts list window (para. [0053], fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang further discloses

conditioned on determining that no unread e-mail messages sent by the user to a first co-user or received by the user from the first co-user are available for access, not display within the window and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user any graphical element related to e-mails

or e-mail inbox content (fig. 5a) [As per John's desktop, since there is no unread message so no icon is being displayed next to Janak as opposed to fig. 6c. Therefore, it will be the same for Janak's desktop.

Claim 73: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 72 above, Tang further discloses comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to no longer display the graphical element within the window upon subsequently determining that the user accessed previously unread e-mail messages such that no unread e-mail messages from the first co-user remain presently available for access (fig. 7b).

Claim 82. Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 72, Yach further discloses wherein automatically displaying the graphical element in response to the e-mail message comprises displaying the graphical element upon receiving the e-mail message without manual intervention by the user (col. 26, lines 61-65). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

5. Claims 7-8, 21, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 6,791,583 B2) in view of Yach et al. (US 7,295,836) in view of Imamura (US 2002/0091774) and further in view of Widger (US 2005/0117733).

Claim 7: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 1 above, wherein the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer. Tang and Imamura do not explicitly disclose to open or activate an application to read the unread email message when the first graphical element is again selected by the user.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Widger discloses “a message notification portion when clicking on the icon accesses the associated application” (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include that feature into Tang. One would have been motivated to add that feature in order to quickly access and review one’s email content without interruption (para. [0053]).

Claim 8: Tang Yach and Inamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 1 above, wherein the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer. Tang Yach and Inamura do not explicitly disclose to open or activate an application listing multiple email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Widger discloses “a message notification icon...with associated number of messages received” (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a new message icon that shows listing of multiple e-mail messages in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better organize the email message inbox (para. [0053]).

Claim 21: Tang Yach and Inamura disclose the method of claim 14 above, Tang Yach and Inamura do not explicitly disclose comprising displaying a list of one or more unread multiple email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user in response to a second selection of the graphical element first indication by the user, the list of one or more unread multiple email messages being limited to email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Widger discloses “a message notification icon...with associated number of messages received” (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a new message icon that shows

listing of multiple e-mail messages in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better organize the email message inbox (para. [0053]).

Claim 42: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 14 above Tang further discloses comprising:

determining that a second one of the co-users has left a voicemail message for the user (fig. 5a)

in response to determining that the second co-user left a voicemail message for the user (fig.

5a)[each user can monitor each other activities],

Tang and Imamura do not explicitly disclose displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second graphical element, different from the first graphical element, configured to inform the user that the second co-user left a voicemail message for the user.

However Widger discloses a voice mail icon when a user has an incoming voice message (fig. 22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a different icon associated with a different co-user in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to show a suitable display for message notification (para. [0010]).

6. Claims 38, 43, 65 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 6,791,583 B2) in view of Yach et al. (US 7,295,836) in view of Imamura et al. (US 2002/0091774 A1) and in further view of Lee et al. (US2003/0233265 A1).

Claim 38: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the method of claim 14 above Yach further discloses wherein displaying, and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first co-user to the user that

remain unread by the user (col. 26, lines 61-67, lines 14-20). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Inmamura discloses includes within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang and Inmamura do not disclose explicitly disclose

further comprising displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to a second co-user, a second graphical element, different from the first graphical element, that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user.

However, Lee discloses displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to a second co-user, a second graphical element, different from the first graphical element, that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user (p.3, para [0043],[0048] and fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include scheduled meeting icon in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting (para. [0009]).

Claim 43: Tang Yach and Inmamura disclose the method of claim 14 above Tang further discloses displaying, and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user and concurrently with the first graphical element that indicates that a number of unread e-mail messages have been sent by the first co-user to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Inmamura discloses includes within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang and Imamura do not explicitly disclose a second graphical element that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user includes displaying the second graphical element that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user. However, Lee discloses in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display the second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user (p.3, para. [0043] and [0048]) [sending request to the invitees]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include scheduled meeting icon in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting (para. [0006]).

Claim 65: Tang, Yach, Imamura and Lee disclose the method of 38 above, Tang further discloses the first graphical element comprises a first icon (fig. 5a) and Lee discloses the second graphical element comprises a second and different icon (fig. 5).

Claim 66: Tang, Yach, Imamura and Lee disclose the method of claim 43 above, Tang further discloses the first graphical element comprises a first icon (fig. 5a) and Lee discloses the second graphical element comprises a second and different icon (fig. 5).

7. Claims 67, 70-71, 74-76, 83-89, 90, 91 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 6,791,583 B2) in view of Yach (US 7,295,836) in view of Imamura et al. (US 2002/0091774 A1) and in further view of Nielsen (US 6,108,688).

Claim 67: Tang discloses a computer- readable storage medium having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

display, to a user of an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4a).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users;

determine, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages.

However Yach discloses

receive a notification from an e-mail client when an email message is received from a first one of the co-users to the user (col. 26, lines 61-65);

determine, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages(col. 26, lines 14-20, lines 61-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include message notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Tang and Yach do not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a first one of the co-users that remain unread by the first co-user

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this

capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang further discloses

display, in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent (col. 11, lines 17-31)

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user.

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose within the interface that includes the contacts list.

However Imamura discloses the number of unread e-mail messages for each particular user (para. [0053], fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Claim 70: Tang Yach Imamura and Nielsen disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 67, Tang further discloses wherein the instructions for causing a computer to display, within the interface that

includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a graphical element that indicates the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the user to the first co-user includes instructions for causing a computer to display a pop-up window or a dialog box that overlays the window and that displays the number of unread e-mail messages to the user, the pop-up window or the dialog box displaying the number without displaying a list of e-mails received by the user (fig. 5a).

Claim 71: Tang Yach Imamura and Nielsen disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 70 above, Tang further discloses the instructions for causing a computer to display the pop-up window or dialog box comprise instructions for causing the computer to display the pop-up window or dialog box in response to the user scrolling over the identifier corresponding to the first co-user in the window (col. 12, lines 57-59).

Claim 74: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 72 above, Tang further discloses:

the instructions that cause a computer to determine whether unread e-mail messages sent by the user to a first co-user or received by the user from the first co-user are available for access comprise instructions that cause a computer to determine whether unread e-mail messages sent by the user to the first co-user are available for access by the first co-user (fig. 5a); and

Yach further discloses the instructions that cause a computer to display that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user a graphical element that indicates to the user that unread e-mail messages are available for access comprise instructions that cause a computer to, conditioned on determining that unread e-mail messages sent by the user to the first co-user are available for access by the first co-user, display and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user a graphical element configured to inform the user that e-mail messages

sent by the user to the first co-user have not been read by the first co-user (col. 26, lines 61-67, lines 14-20). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Imamura further discloses within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang and Imamura do not explicitly disclose remain not read by the first co-user.

However, Nielsen discloses providing the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender and the sender's e-mail program is modified to include the capability of providing a warning in case the sender's e-mail message is not opened by the recipient. (col. 1, lines 54-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include sender notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the sender about outstanding email reply (col. 1, lines 49-51).

Claim 75: Tang Yach and Imamura disclose the computer-readable storage medium of claim 72 above, Tang further discloses:

the instructions that cause a computer to determine whether unread e-mail messages sent by the user to a first co-user or received by the user from the first co-user are available for access comprise instructions that cause a computer to determine whether unread e-mail messages received by the user from the first co-user are available for access by the user (fig. 5a, col. 11, lines 41-44)

the instructions that cause a computer to display that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user a graphical element that indicates to the user that unread e-mail messages are available for access comprise instructions that cause a computer, conditioned on determining that unread e-mail messages received by the user from the first co-user are available for

access by the user display and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user a graphical element configured (fig. 5a).

Imamura further discloses within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang and Imamura do not explicitly disclose to inform the user that e-mail messages sent by the first co-user to the user have not been read by the user and remain not read by the user. However, Nielsen discloses providing the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender and the sender's e-mail program is modified to include the capability of providing a warning in case the sender's e-mail message is not opened by the recipient. (col. 1, lines 54-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include sender notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the sender about outstanding email reply (col. 1, lines 49-51).

Claim 76: Tang discloses a method comprising:

displaying, to a user of an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4).

Tang does not explicitly disclose receiving an e-mail message addressed to the user from a first co-user, the user having no unread e-mail messages received from the first co-user prior to receipt of the e-mail message.

However, Nielsen discloses as shown by decision 210, the program checks whether the message has been seen previously, or whether it is a new message that has not been seen previously. (col. 8, lines 42-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include sender notification in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the sender about new email (col. 1, lines 49-51).

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose
receive a notification from an email client when the email message is received
in response to the notification, automatically displaying that indicates to the user that unread e-mail messages received by the user are available for access by the user.

However Yach discloses
receive a notification from an email client when the email message is received ((col. 26, lines 61-65)
in response to the notification, automatically displaying within the window that includes the contacts list that indicates to the user that unread e-mail messages received by the user are available for access by the user (col. 26, lines 14-20, lines 61-67). One would have been motivated to do so in order allow user a quick view of what happened over the past few hours or days and quickly track important events and their time (col. 25, lines 22-24).

Imamura further discloses within the window that includes the contacts list (para. [0053], fig. 6). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang further discloses
and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user a graphical element from the first co-user, wherein no graphical element related to e-mails or e-mail inbox content was displayed

in the window in association with the identifier corresponding to the first user prior to receipt of the e-mail message (fig. 5a) [if there are no unread messages, there won't be any display icons].

Claim 89 substantially contains the subject matter of claim and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 83. Tang discloses method comprising: displaying, to a user of an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4a);

receive a notification from an email client when an email message is sent to a first one of the co-users

determining, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages sent (col. 4, lines 18-24 and fig. 5a)

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a first one of the co-users that remain unread by the first co-user;

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang further discloses

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, displaying, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent (col. 11, lines 17-31) [in case there are no unread messages, there will be no information to be displayed].

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a first one of the co- users that remain unread by the first co-user.

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose within the interface that includes the contacts list.

However Imamura discloses the number of unread e-mail messages for each particular user (para. [0053], fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

enable the user to select the first graphical element;

receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user; and

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Yach discloses

enable the user to select the first graphical element (col. 26, lines 19-26);
receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user (col. 26, lines 19-21) [italic type indicates events have been attended by a user implies that there was a selection]; and
in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Inamura discloses

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each name and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053] and [0057]), as status information can include additional information and upon user input of a password then the messages status are updated (See Para 56 bottom, login causes update)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Tang further discloses

display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Claim 84. Tang Yach Inamura and Nielsen and disclose the method of claim 83, Tang further discloses comprising displaying the one or more unread email messages in response to a second selection of the first graphical element by the user (col. 11, lines 41-44, fig. 5a).

Claim 85. Tang Yach Inamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 83, Tang further discloses comprising displaying a list of one or more unread email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user in response to a second selection of the first graphical element by the user, the list of one or

more unread email messages being limited to email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user (fig. 5a).

Claim 86. Tang Yach Imamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 83, Tang further discloses wherein displaying to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the user to the first co-user includes displaying the number in a pop-up window or a dialog box that appears in response to selection of the first graphical element by the user, the pop-up window or the dialog box displaying the number without displaying a list of e- mails received by the user (fig. 5a).

Claim 87. Tang Yach Imamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 83 further comprising:

Nielsen further discloses determining that the user has sent a number of e-mail messages to a second one of the co- users that remain unread by the second co-user (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65).. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]); and

Tang further discloses
conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, displaying, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent (col. 11, lines 17-31) [in case there are no unread messages, there will be no information to be displayed].

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a second one of the co- users that remain unread by the second co-user.

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this

capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65)..

One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose within the interface that includes the contacts list.

However Imamura discloses the number of unread e-mail messages for each particular user (para. [0053], fig. 6).. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Claim 88. Tang Yach Imamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 87, further comprising:

Tang further discloses

enabling the user to select the second graphical element (col. 11, lines 41-44) [a new graphical element related to the second user information will be displayed and is considered as a second graphical element];

receiving a selection of the second graphical element by the user (col. 11, lines 41-44) [in order to read the email, the user has to select]; and

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose

in response to the selection of the second graphical element by the user,

However Imamura discloses

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Tang further discloses

displaying to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Tang and Imamamura do not explicitly disclose

sent by the first user to the first co-user that remain unread by the second co-user.

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008])

Claim 90). Tang Yach Imamamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 89, Imamamura further discloses wherein automatically displaying the graphical element in response to the e-mail message comprises displaying the graphical element upon receiving the e-mail message without manual intervention by the user (para. [0053]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Claim 91. Tang discloses a method comprising: providing an instant messaging service to a user; displaying, to the user, a graphical user interface that enables the user to access the instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (fig. 4a);

receive a notification from an email client when an email message is sent to a first one of the co-users

determining, in response to the notification, a number of unread e-mail messages sent (col. 4, lines 18-24 and fig. 5a)

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a first one of the co-users that remain unread by the first co-user;

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang further discloses

conditioned on the number of unread e-mail messages being greater than zero, displaying, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first graphical element that indicates that one or more unread e-mail messages have been sent (col. 11, lines 17-31) [in case there are no unread messages, there will be no information to be displayed].

Tang does not explicitly disclose sent by the user to a first one of the co- users that remain unread by the first co-user.

However Nielsen discloses the system provides the sender of an e-mail message with the capability of automatically generating a warning message on the sender's system if the recipient of the message has not opened the message by a time specified by the sender ...and this capability can be presented to the sender in many different formats (col. 1, lines 54-58, 63-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to remind the user about notifications for high importance email exchanged with other users (para. [0008]).

Tang and Nielsen do not explicitly disclose within the interface that includes the contacts list.

However Inamura discloses the number of unread e-mail messages for each particular user (para. [0053], fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of access of one's email (para. [0008]).

Tang does not explicitly disclose

enable the user to select the first graphical element;

receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user; and

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Yach discloses

enable the user to select the first graphical element (col. 26, lines 19-26);

receive a selection of the first graphical element by the user (col. 26, lines 19-21) [italic type

indicates events have been attended by a user implies that there was a selection]; and

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user.

However Inamura discloses

in response to the selection of the first graphical element by the user (window 600 includes the names 605 of the registered users, where each name 605 may also serve as a user-selectable icon) [the icon is adjacent to each name and is also selectable] (p. 5, para. [0053] and [0057]), as status information can include additional information and upon user input of a password then the messages status are updated (See Para 56 bottom, login causes update)). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include this feature in Tang. One would

have been motivated to do so in order to simplify the ease of managing email messages to be received over a distributed network by multiple users (para. [0009]).

Tang further discloses

display to the user the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first one of the co-users to the user that remain unread by the user (col. 11, lines 17-31).

Claim 93. Tang Yach Imamamura and Nielsen disclose the method of claim 91, Tang further discloses wherein displaying to the user at least one of the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the first co-user to the user and the number of unread e-mail messages sent by the user to the first co-user includes displaying the at least one number in a pop-up window or a dialog box that appears in response to selection of the first graphical element by the user, the pop-up window or the dialog box displaying the at least one number without displaying a list of e-mails received by the user (fig. 5a).

8. Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang (US 6,791,583 B2) in view of Yach (US 7,295,836) in view of Imamamura et al. (US 2002/0091774 A1) in view of Nielsen (US 6,108,688) and in further view of Widger (US 2005/0117733).

Claim 92. Tang Yach Imamamura and Nielsen and disclose the method of claim 91, Tang Yach Nielsen and Imamamura do not explicitly disclose further comprising displaying a list of one or more unread email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user in response to a second selection of the graphical element by the user, the list of one or more unread email messages being limited to email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Widger discloses “a message notification icon...with associated number of messages received” (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a new message icon that shows listing of multiple e-mail messages in Tang. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better organize the email message inbox (para. [0053]).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/21/2010 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground of rejection(s).

Conclusion

10 The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
a. Schmidt Jr. et al. (US 6,778,642).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phenuel S. Salomon whose telephone number is (571) 270-1699. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Alternate Friday Off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

Art Unit: 2179

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/Phenuel S. Salomon/

Examiner, Art Unit 2179